

The Evening Star.

Weather.

Rain Tuesday and possibly late tonight; warmer tonight. Colder Tuesday.

TAWNEY IS CENSURED SECRET SERVICE PRAISED

President Declares He Did Not Charge Congress With Corruption.

REVIEW OF THE CASE
IN SPECIAL MESSAGE

Holds Dignity of Lawmaking Bodies in High Respect.

INVOLVES L. W. BUSBEY

Speaker's Secretary Author of Newspaper Criticism.

ARTICLE IN CHICAGO PAPER

Chairman of Appropriations Committee Charged With Responsibility for Reduction in Appropriation for Wilkie's Bureau—"An Action Against the Interests of Law-Abiding People."

Unusual attention was paid in the House of Representatives today to the reading of the message from the President, replying to a resolution of that body calling upon him for an explanation of the intimation in his annual message that members of Congress were afraid to be investigated by the secret service. The galleries were packed to the doors, and their occupants likewise exhibited the greatest interest in what the President had to say.

Promptly at noon Mr. Latta, one of the President's secretaries, was at the main door of the chamber bearing the message which was read as soon as the Italian relief measure was put through.

The President's specific references to certain speeches by Messrs. Tawney, Smith, Sherman and Fitzgerald, when the provision for the restriction of the operations of the secret service was up for discussion, and also to Mr. Busbey, the Speaker's private secretary, created a storm of laughter. The Speaker several times vigorously rapped for order.

The President's Message.

To the House of Representatives:
I have received the resolution of the House of Representatives of December 17, 1908, running as follows:

"Whereas there was contained in the sundry civil appropriation bill which passed Congress at its last session and contained a law, the effect of which was to prohibit the employment of the secret service in the Treasury Department; and

"Whereas in the last annual message of the President of the United States to the two Houses of Congress it was stated in reference to that provision: 'It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only to the criminal classes, and it was further stated: 'The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen were afraid to be investigated by the secret service men,' and it was further stated: 'But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law, prohibiting the use of the secret service in investigating members of Congress. It would be far better to do this than to do what actually was done, and strive to prevent or at least to hamper effective action against criminals by the executive branch of the government; and

"In the words of the President in the above words is that the majority of the Congressmen were in fear of being investigated by secret service men and that Congress as a whole was actuated by that motive in enacting the provision in question; and

"Whereas your committee appointed to consider these statements of the President and to report to the House cannot find in the hearings before committees nor in the records of the House or Senate any justification of this intimation of the honor and integrity of the Congress; and

"Whereas your committee would prefer, in order to make an intelligent and comprehensive report, just to the President as well as to the Congress, to have all the information available to the President and to the Congress; and

"Be it resolved: That the President be requested to transmit to the House any evidence upon which he based his statements that the 'chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen were afraid to be investigated by secret service men,' and also to transmit to the House any evidence connecting any member of the House of Representatives with the investigation of the secret service men; and

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Charged to Mr. Tawney.

"I have no doubt that many members of the House simply followed the lead of Messrs. Tawney and Smith without having had the opportunity to know very much as to the rights and wrongs of the question. I think the responsibility rests on the committee on appropriations, under the lead of the members whom I have mentioned.

Mr. Tawney in the debate stated that he had in his possession "a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, who himself admits that the provisions under which the appropriation has been made have been violated year after year for a number of years in his own department." I append herewith as Appendix A the letter referred to. It makes no such admission as that which Mr. Tawney alleges.

The ink contract fraud in the bureau of engraving and printing was investigated by the secret service, and the guilty parties brought to justice. Mr. Tawney stated in the debate that this was not investigated by the secret service, but by a clerk "down there," conveying the impression that the clerk was not in the secret service. As a matter of fact he was in the secret service; his name was Moran, and he was promoted to assistant chief for the excellence of his work in this case.

For a long time I contented myself with endeavoring to persuade the House not to permit the wrong. * * * These methods proved unavailing to prevent the wrong. Messrs. Tawney and Smith and their fellow-members on the appropriations committee paid no heed to the protests. I have spoken plainly and directly, and have set forth the facts in the case.

congressmen are in fear of being investigated by secret service men, and that Congress as a whole was actuated by that motive in enacting the provision in question, and that this is an impeachment of the integrity of the Congress. These statements are not, I think, in accordance with the facts.

Refers to the Record.

The portion of my message referred to runs as follows:

"Last year an amendment was incorporated in the measure providing for the secret service, which provided that there should be no detail from the secret service and no transfer therefrom. It is not too much to say that this amendment has been of benefit only, and could be of benefit only, to the criminal classes, and it was further stated: 'The chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen were afraid to be investigated by secret service men,' and it was further stated: 'But if this is not considered desirable a special exception could be made in the law, prohibiting the use of the secret service in investigating members of Congress. It would be far better to do this than to do what actually was done, and strive to prevent or at least to hamper effective action against criminals by the executive branch of the government; and

"In the words of the President in the above words is that the majority of the Congressmen were in fear of being investigated by secret service men and that Congress as a whole was actuated by that motive in enacting the provision in question; and

"Whereas your committee appointed to consider these statements of the President and to report to the House cannot find in the hearings before committees nor in the records of the House or Senate any justification of this intimation of the honor and integrity of the Congress; and

"Whereas your committee would prefer, in order to make an intelligent and comprehensive report, just to the President as well as to the Congress, to have all the information available to the President and to the Congress; and

"Be it resolved: That the President be requested to transmit to the House any evidence upon which he based his statements that the 'chief argument in favor of the provision was that the Congressmen were afraid to be investigated by secret service men,' and also to transmit to the House any evidence connecting any member of the House of Representatives with the investigation of the secret service men; and

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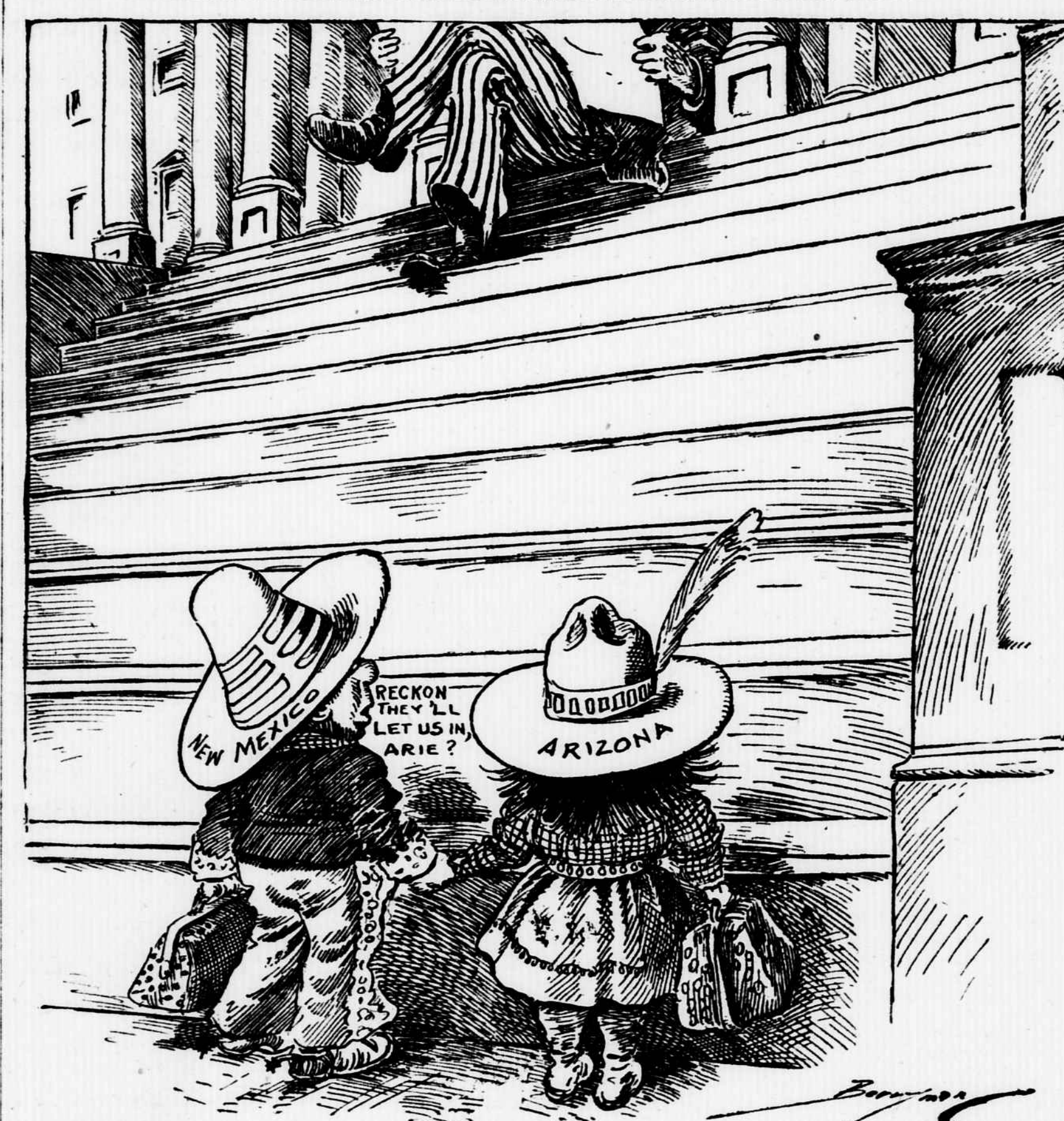
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WAITING AT THE DOOR FOR STATEHOOD.

NO REVIEW OF OIL CASE

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON \$29,000,000 FINE.

Action Leaves Standing the Court of Appeals—Judgment Ravorable to the Company.

The twenty-nine-million-dollar fine case of the Standard Oil Company will not be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States. The decision of the court to this effect was announced by Chief Justice Fuller soon after the court convened today.

The case came to the court on a petition filed by the government asking the court to order up the record in the case for a review of the decision of the United States circuit court of appeals for the seventh circuit by which Judge Landis' original decision imposing a fine of \$29,000,000 against the Standard Oil Company for accepting rebates from the railroad companies was reversed. In the Supreme Court the case turned largely upon the right of the court to interfere in view of the fact that the case had been passed upon by the court of appeals, the government contending for such privileges as a right, while it was urged in behalf of the oil company that the precedents were all against such a proceeding. The action of the court consisted in the announcement that the government's petition would not be granted.

The effect of this announcement will be to leave standing the decision of the court of appeals, which was adverse to the government and favorable to the company.

DISTRICT BILLS IN SENATE.

Introduced by Mr. Dillingham for Senator Gallinger.

Senator Dillingham, of Vermont, in behalf of Senator Gallinger, chairman of the District of Columbia committee, who is in New Hampshire, introduced today in the Senate the following Commissioners' bills: For the extension of 19th street.

To amend section 1383 J of the code of laws for the District of Columbia.

To amend the act to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery in the District of Columbia.

To regulate plumbing and gas fitting in the District of Columbia.

To provide for the removal of unsafe buildings.

To regulate the construction of buildings along alleyways, etc.

These measures have been reported in full heretofore. They were referred today to the District of Columbia committee in the Senate.

The Commissioners' bill to limit the period for refunding taxes and assessments erroneously paid, which was reported favorably from the District committee May 16 last by Mr. Dillingham, was passed today by the Senate.

DETROIT FINANCIER'S SUICIDE.

Henry C. Potter, Jr., Kills Himself.

Victim of Nervous Trouble.

DETROIT, January 4.—Henry C. Potter, Jr., of this city, vice president of the People's State Savings Bank of this city, committed suicide at his home shortly before 10 o'clock this morning. Mr. Potter had been suffering from nervous prostration for some time.

About a month ago Mr. Potter was found unconscious in the bathroom of his residence, on Jefferson avenue, with the gas escaping. It was stated then by members of his family that the gas had been turned on accidentally, as he was overcome by an attack of heart trouble. This morning a shot was heard in the bathroom of Mr. Potter's residence.

When the family and servants entered the room he was found dead on the floor with a bullet through his head.

WOMEN TRAIN FOR WAR.

Army of Amazons in Montenegro.

CHICAGO, January 4.—An army of Amazons trained to wage war on the Austrian empire is the newest body to take up the profession of arms, according

to Dr. Spiro Sargentich, commissioner of health of Tacoma, Wash., now speeding westward from Chicago en route from Montenegro, where he went to offer his services to his former ruler and watched the women of Montenegro training for a possible war with Austria.

"When we read in the 'Hill' of the women who helped in the siege of Troy we were positive that we would not encounter a similar condition in our every-day life," declared the health commissioner. "In our little country of Montenegro where the designs of Austria become more and more galling as the days go by, our women are preparing for a possible fray. Daily they drill and practice with their rifles and revolvers, and when trouble does come they will fight side by side with the 70,000 men who comprise our army."

Dr. Sargentich served in the Montenegrin and the Austrian armies, and wears the order of Prince Danilo conferred on him a month ago.

FOUND WITH THROAT CUT.

Georgian Is Brutally Assaulted by a Gang at Thomasville.

THOMASVILLE, Ga., January 4.—B. P. Akridge, who lives at Sale City, Ga., near here, was found near Thomasville with his throat cut from ear to ear and with numerous bruises on his body. He will probably recover.

Akridge says that he left Thomasville Saturday afternoon to walk to his home and that at Ochlocknee river he was met by a crowd of men from his own neighborhood, who attacked him and inflicted the injuries which he bears. He says that some held him and others of the crowd covered him with rifles while one man cut his throat. He refused to give the names of his assailants.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., January 4.—The body of A. G. Martin, a prominent local automobile dealer, was found yesterday at the corner of Bradley avenue and 9th street, on the South Side, with his throat cut from ear to ear. No clue has been found as to the manner in which the crime was committed.

JEALOUSY CAUSES TRAGEDY.

Base Ball Player Kills Girl, Wounds Escort and Commits Suicide.

BOONEVILLE, Ind., January 4.—Edward Strickland shot and killed Miss Ida Williamson, eighteen years old; fatally wounded Almond Timmons, the girl's escort, and then turned the weapon against his own head and blew his brains out at Chandler, Ind., near here. The shooting occurred at the home of Charles Hass, where a dance was in progress. Strickland was a base ball pitcher and is said to have signed with the Evansville Central League team for next season.

The crime is attributed to jealousy on the part of Strickland.

INSPECTOR'S SLAYER CAUGHT.

Fitzgerald's Murder Sequel to Deficit in a Mississippi Post Office.

JACKSON, Miss., January 4.—William Sorsby, who shot and killed Post Office Inspector Charles Fitzgerald at Clinton, Miss., September 29, was captured near the scene of the killing. Sorsby was found in the attic of the home of a friend, where he has been in hiding for several weeks, and offered no resistance. The killing of Fitzgerald followed the checking up of the books of the Clinton post office, where Sorsby acted as deputy postmaster, and the finding, it is stated, of a discrepancy of \$750 in his accounts. The amount was paid and Sorsby is alleged to have endeavored to persuade the inspector to make no report to the Post Office Department. This Fitzgerald refused to do and was shot and killed by Sorsby as he was about to board a train en route to his home in this city.

CLEAR FIELD FOR HEYBURN.

Idaho Senator to Be Re-Elected by Incoming Legislature.

BOISE, Idaho, January 4.—United States Senator Weldon B. Heyburn will undoubtedly be re-elected by the incoming legislature.

R. P. O'Neill, state chairman of the republican state central committee, and Gov.-elect J. H. Brady, under whom the opposition to Senator Heyburn's selection was alleged to have centered, disclaim having had any ambition to oppose the present incumbent.

The late republican state convention endorsed Senator Heyburn for re-election.

WILL ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT

LIEUT. COL. MEARNS WILL MAKE THE AFRICAN TRIP.

Found Physically Disqualified for Performing the Duties of His Rank in the Army.

Two special orders were issued by the War Department today in regard to Maj. Edgar A. Mearns, medical department, U.S.A., the officer who has been ordered to accompany President Roosevelt and party on their hunting expedition into the wilds of Africa during the coming spring. The first order announces that Maj. Mearns, having been examined for promotion by a board of officers and found physically disqualified for the duties of a lieutenant colonel in the medical corps, by reason of disability incident to the service, has, by direction of the President, been retired from active service as a lieutenant colonel to date from January 1, 1909, "the date upon which he would have been promoted to that grade by reason of seniority, if found qualified."

The second order, also issued by direction of the President, announces that Lieut. Col. Mearns, U.S.A., retired, "is assigned to active duty with his consent, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved April 23, 1904, and will report in person to the President of the United States for duty, with station in this city."

Under these orders Lieut. Col. Mearns will receive the full pay and allowances of a lieutenant colonel on the active list during his entire service under this assignment with Mr. Roosevelt in this city and in Africa.

FOUR SERIOUSLY HURT.

Gas Explosion Almost Totally Wrecks House at Martinsville.

MARTINSVILLE, Va., January 4.—A gas explosion in a house jointly occupied by John H. Bridgeman and George G. Garrett resulted in four persons being seriously injured and the house almost totally wrecked. The space between ceiling and floor filled from a leaking pipe, and when ignited hurried the ceiling down upon the heads of Mrs. Bridgeman and her small son and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Flanagan of Wheeling, the latter Mrs. Bridgeman's sister, inflicting serious injuries. All were taken to a hospital.

The Garrett family were not in their section of the house.

HIGHWAYMEN ARE BOLD.

Three Hold-Ups in Rapid Succession Startle Chicagoans.

CHICAGO, January 4.—Three hold-ups in rapid succession, the last occurring early today, caused excitement in the downtown district. Two highwaymen figured in each and one was captured. In the presence of scores of persons Charles W. Moffett, a traveling salesman, was beaten and robbed. His nose was broken and he was taken to a hospital in a semi-conscious condition.

Joseph Liggett, a real estate dealer, was accosted by two men, who demanded his valuables. Instead Liggett drew a knife and began slashing at his adversaries. They ran and one was taken by the police.

A third victim was robbed and severely beaten.

Fatal Collapse of Scaffold.

CLEVELAND, January 4.—By a collapse of a scaffold at the Central Blast Furnace here last night fifteen Italian workmen were thrown to the ground. One man was killed and the others seriously injured, some probably fatally.

The men were thirty feet in the air engaged in tearing down a brick chimney.

Death of Ephraim B. McCrum.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., January 4.—Ephraim Banks McCrum, a newspaper worker of many years' experience, is dead at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. L. Ripple. He was founder of the Altoona, Pa., Tribune and the Juniata Tribune, published at Mifflintown, Pa. Later he was engaged in journalistic work in Ohio and at Washington, D. C.

OUR FLEET TOO LATE FOR ITALIAN RELIEF

Ambassador Griscom Cables Secretary Root.

MAY NOT STOP IN ITALY

Visit Except to Aid Sufferers Considered Untimely.

SUPPLY SHIPS ARE WELCOMED

Premier Asks That the Celtic Proceed to Naples and the Culgoa to Messina.

The prime minister of Italy believes that the American fleet of battleships will arrive in Italy too late to be of assistance at the scene of disaster according to a cablegram received by the Secretary of State from Ambassador Griscom today. That suggestion will be followed up by a conference here to determine what disposition is to be made of the fleet, as it is not regarded as advisable to have the fleet touch at Italian ports at all unless it is for the purpose of rendering aid to the earthquake sufferers.

Preparations had been made at the Italian ports to be visited by the fleet for the reception of the Americans, but under the present circumstances the visit would hardly be regarded as well timed.

Ambassador Griscom also cables that the supply ship Celtic should go straight to Naples, while the Culgoa would be appreciated at Messina and vicinity if arriving in three or four days. The Culgoa left Port Said this morning and should arrive at Messina within four days and possibly sooner. The Celtic is en route to Gibraltar from New York.

Mr